Letter from the Principal

November 4 and November 5 are scheduled Teacher Conference Days. The first marking period has ended and report cards will be coming home on November 13. This is a time for parents and teachers to conference regarding student progress, behavior, and academic levels. Communication between parents and teachers is essential to the success of our students! Please feel free to refer questions to your child’s teacher at any time. Teachers’ email addresses can be found on the Algonkian Elementary website and they can always be reached by calling the main office or sending a note with your child. Keep in mind, teachers are working with students all day, so phone calls and emails will be returned as soon as possible. CLARITY, our online grade book system, is also a great way to see how your child is progressing throughout the year. If you do not yet have a password to access your child’s account, you can find a request form on our school’s website under the CLARITY tab. [continue to page 2]

Assistance Notice

If, due to a disability, you need assistance to enable you to participate meaningfully in any of our school programs, please contact Ms. Karen Shields, Assistant Principal at 571-434-3240 at least five working days prior to the activity.
School Improvement Plan

School Improvement Plan (SIP) has been developed for Algonkian Elementary by staff, parents, and the community. Annually, we review and revise our plan based on the data we receive. Our School Improvement Plan is available on our school website: http://www.lcps.org/Page/40302 and in our school office.

We continue to have a School Improvement Plan Steering Committee. If you are interested in participating on this committee or participating in the development of monitoring the School Improvement Plan, please contact Principal Jennifer Steeprow at 571-434-3240.

ALGONKIAN EQUITY COMMITTEE

The Equity Committee is here to serve our Bobcat family by ensuring that our instruction and interaction with students, staff and families is equitable. We monitor activities, programs and projects to make sure they are relevant, diverse and support and represent all of our students and staff here at Algonkian Elementary School.

The Committee welcomes parental/guardian participation and if you have an interest in attending the open meetings or have questions, concerns or comments, please contact either Theresa Ryan, Counselor (theresa.ryan@lcps.org) or Susan Smith, Parent Liaison (susan.r.smith@lcps.org) at 571-434-3240.

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 27-29, 2012
Thanksgiving Break
School Closed
American Education Week
Algonkian Elementary School

What’s Your SUPER Power!

November 18-22, 2012

We invite you to join us as we celebrate American Education Week at Algonkian Elementary. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to spotlight the accomplishments of your children. We look forward to seeing you!

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**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 ~ 2ND GRADE**

The Second Grade has been studying habitats. Students will be constructing a habitat diorama in the classroom with their parents’ help. Each second grader is asked to gather all the materials that they will need to build a detailed habitat diorama. **All parents are invited to attend and help construct at 8:15 a.m. in the school cafeteria.**

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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 ~ 1ST GRADE**

The First Grade will present the play, “The First Thanksgiving”. The play depicts the friendship between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. The children will sing songs and tell the tale of how we came to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. **The play will be performed at 9:00 a.m.** All 1st grade parents are invited to join us in the Activity Room for the play.

[continue to page 4]
American Education Week  [continued from page 3]

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 ~ 3RD GRADE**

The Third Grade classes will prepare a presentation about the culture of their family heritage. Students will be given an opportunity to share their presentation with parents at 8:00 a.m. in their classrooms. Their presentations may include food, games, clothing, music, literature, language, and/or other traditional events. Parents are invited to share in each child’s cultural celebration.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 ~ 4TH GRADE**

The Fourth Grade classes will celebrate Colonial Days at Algonkian by participating in a variety of different activities. These will include making a Horn Book, a Pomander Ball, a Colonial Lantern, and playing a colonial game. Students will participate in an interactive presentation from the theater group called *The Merry Maids of History*. Students will rotate among the fourth grade classrooms to experience life in colonial days. Activities will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22 ~ 5TH GRADE**

Fifth Grade classes will host “The Great Turkey Race” on the black top behind the school. Parents are invited to observe our 5th graders race turkeys and learn the value of teamwork and cooperation. Parents are welcome to join us for lunch. The race begins promptly at 1:30 p.m. In the event of rain, the race will be held in the Activity Room. See you there -- gobble, gobble, gobble.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22 ~ KINDERGARTEN**

The Kindergarten classes at Algonkian Elementary will host a Native American Pow-Wow. This Pow-Wow is the culminating activity for an extensive kindergarten unit of study about Native Americans. It will include songs, finger plays, a play, student-made costumes, props, and invitations. The event will be held at the following times:

- *AM Kindergarten Pow-Wow*  9:15 a.m. in the Activity Room
- *PM Kindergarten Pow-Wow*  12:30 p.m. in the Activity Room
Algonkian Counseling
Ms. Theresa Ryan

Counselors Help Students Reach Their Potential!

Algonkian Guidance Advisory Council -- The advisory council will be composed of school and community members and is tasked with making recommendations regarding student and community needs and advising the school counseling staff as it strives to meet these needs. The advisory council will meet twice this year on October 28 and March 24 at 3:00 p.m. in Ms. Ryan’s office. Please email Ms. Ryan at: Theresa.Ryan@lcps.org if you are interested in joining this committee!

Here in Guidance, we are finishing up our unit on Goal Setting! Students are now focusing on ACTIONS to do this school year to achieve their individual short-term and long-term goals! If you haven’t already, sit down with your child and discuss your child’s chosen goals and the actions needed to achieve them!

TRY THIS AT HOME: Give your child a stack of magazines. Tell them to find photos that represent each of their goals. Cut out the pictures, and glue onto the back of a clipboard! Now your child can use the clipboard and be reminded of their future goals! Did you sit down as a family and come up with family goals for this year? You may want to make a poster of your family goals and mark off achieved progress! If your child loves the idea, help them make a poster for their individual goals as well!

Next up, connecting with music! We are connecting the music lesson: “The One” to our county-wide bullying prevention curriculum Stop, Walk, Talk. One’s message of inclusion, empowerment, and tolerance is a simple but powerful tool that inspires student as leaders!

GUIDANCE GROUPS -- Our 1st round guidance groups have begun! Some groups will begin later in the school year. As always please let Ms. Ryan know if there are any special considerations or concerns that need attention individually or if your child may need to be added to a currently running group!

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) at Algonkian -- What’s your SUPER power? We PuRRR! We are a community with SUPER POWERS! Throughout our school building, students are receiving positive praise and ‘golden tickets’! Ask your child in what classes they have earned golden tickets! Students love our new $ system in the cafeteria, and all classrooms have achieved their first goal! GO BOBCATS!! Each class decided together to earn $40 in cafeteria cash to purchase extra recess, fine dining, or a lunchtime coloring day. Stay tuned for upcoming grade level rewards to be announced 2nd quarter! Visit our Algonkian PBIS webpages at: http://lcps.org/domain/13641 for more information on PBIS.

AUTHORS’ NIGHT Returns!!

Algonkian will be hosting one Authors’ Night per month for each grade level. This means more students can participate. The criterion is still the same. Each teacher will invite 10 students to read stories that have been written in the classroom and have gone through the writing process. Students will be given an invitation the Friday before and an RSVP needs to be given to the classroom teacher by the following Monday. A practice session will be held either the day before or the day of the scheduled Authors’ Night.

On the night of the scheduled event, students are to arrive no earlier than 6:15 p.m. It will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Family and friends go to the Activity Room (gym) and participating students go to the stage. Semi-formal attire is required. Students may not wear jeans, sweats or shorts.

We will begin our first Authors’ Night for this school year with our fifth graders on Wednesday, November 20. The dates for all other grades will be announced in the monthly school newsletters.

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Mayobre at: tmayobre@lcps.org.

CHESS CLUB

3rd Chess Club Meeting – Tuesday, November 19
2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the school cafeteria

Visit our Chess Club webpage: http://www.lcps.org/page/40419 for more information!

Here is a direct link to our online Chess Club Permission Slip: http://www.lcps.org/page/40421

Please remember students need a NEW permission slip for EVERY club!

We always need parent volunteers to help with our monthly after-school Chess Club meetings.

Basic chess skills are helpful, but not necessary!

QUESTIONS?
Contact Ms. Ryan at: 571-434-3240 or email: theresa.ryan@lcps.org
Lines from the Library
Mrs. Chrissie Devinney & Mrs. Becky Wetzel

Thank you for the wonderful support of our Book Fair! An extra big thank you to all the parents who came in during book fair to help us we cannot do this without you. The book fair allows us to add new books to our library collection.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Chat-n-Chew books arrived later than planned. However, all 4 groups where able to meet for lunch the week of October 21st. Students and parents had fun getting to know each other and are excited to read our November selections. Books should have come home with your student.

Responsive Instruction (RI)
Ms. Ann Negley

Responsive Instruction is in full swing here at Algonkian. Grades 2nd thru 5th began new BLT groups on October 28. Beginning November 11th, all students in 1st grade will begin BLT. Students in first grade will receive instruction in the area of sight words and decoding. All other students will be participating in additional guided reading groups. During these groups, students will focus on specific reading skills and strategies. Each week students will have their progress monitored by their BLT teacher.

Students who will be participating in BLT groups will have received, on October 25, a letter describing the type of group they are participating in, and the teacher responsible for instruction of that group. If your student is participating in a BLT group, it is very important that they attend school daily.

Additionally, if you didn’t have a chance to attend the RI presentation during October, take a peek at the updated RI link on Algonkian’s website. As always, any questions or comments that you may have about RI can be directed to Ann Negley at: anegley@lcps.org.

Reading
Ms. Kristi Peace

November 1st is National Family Literacy Day. Please see the information below to get more information about this special holiday and for ways to celebrate with your family!

National Family Literacy Day, celebrated across the U.S., focuses on special activities and events that showcase the importance of family literacy programs. First held in 1994, the annual event is officially celebrated on November 1st, but many events are held throughout the month of November. Schools, libraries, and other literacy organizations participate through read-a-thons, celebrity appearances, book drives, and more.

http://www.readeristhink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/celebrate-national-family-literacy-20681.html

Three Ways to Celebrate National Family Literacy Day with Your Family:
1. Make a favorite family recipe for dinner. Let your children help read the recipe and measure ingredients. Share a special memory that comes to mind when you make this dish.
2. Read your child one of your favorite childhood stories.
3. Plan a family poetry reading night. Each family member chooses a poem, practices reading it, and reads it aloud.

Math
Ms. Emily Dubnowski
Mathematics Resource Teacher

At Algonkian Elementary School, the teachers are committed to teaching math for understanding. Your child is not only learning the curriculum objectives for math in their classroom, they are learning them through the critical mathematics process goals LCPS has embedded within the mathematics curriculum for every grade level.

MATHEMATICS PROCESS GOALS

- **Representations** – I use pictures, numbers, and words to show my thinking.
- **Communication** – I use math vocabulary to explain my thinking to others.
- **Mathematical Reasoning** – I describe why I think my strategy makes sense when solving a problem.
- **Connections** – I show how the problem is like something else I already know.
- **Problem Solving** – I use effective strategies to solve a problem.

This year, LCPS is focusing on **Communication** and **Mathematical Reasoning**. We will add focus goals every year. In every math lesson, your child is developing these skills to learn and understand mathematics. The link below is to a very useful article, “Why does the math that my child brings home look different from the math I remember?” It explains the difference between memorizing, how we were taught, and learning for understanding, how your child is being taught. By understanding this difference, you can help your child with their learning of mathematics.

http://www.nctm.org/uploadedFiles/Lessons_and_Resources/figurethis/family%20broch_1_ENG.pdf

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Remember… Bobcats love MATH!
**Music**

*Ms. Alicia Smith*

We’re all Super Heroes in Music!!

What’s happening at Algonkian:

**School-Wide Veteran’s Day Assembly**

*2nd and 4th Grade will perform one song each*

2nd Grade will perform one song each on Monday, November 11 at 1:30 p.m.

1st Grade Performance

("The First Thanksgiving"

Tuesday, November 19 at 9:00 a.m.

**5th Grade** ~ Students are diligently preparing for their musical, "December ‘Round the World", that will take place next month on December 18. The students have been learning the songs. I will also start to teach them movements to go along with each song. Please look out for speaking parts that will be coming home with the students this month. If your child is chosen for a speaking role, he/she will need to MEMORIZE the line(s) at home. Please encourage your child to practice and memorize the lyrics to the songs at home. This will ensure that the students are well prepared! The lyrics can be found in the packet that was sent home last month and on the Algonkian website under "Music". If you are interested in volunteering to help with costumes or set design, please email Miss Smith. The more parent volunteers we have the better the musical will be!! (Especially since Miss Smith is not the most artistic/crafty person in the world 😊).  

[continue to page 8]
Music [continued from page 7]

4th Grade ~ Students will continue to prepare for Veterans Day by practicing their 4th grade song, “You Are Our Heroes”, as well as the school-wide songs “Thank You, Soldiers” and “The Star Spangled Banner”. In addition to preparing these songs, we have been talking about drumming and using several instruments to create a sound story with the book One by Kathryn Otoshi. The students have been talking about the wonderful message of this story in guidance as well.

3rd Grade ~ Students will continue preparing the school-wide songs, “Thank You, Soldiers” and “The Star Spangled Banner”, for the Veterans Day assembly. We have also been talking about drumming and using several instruments to create a sound story with the book One by Kathryn Otoshi. The students have been talking about the wonderful message of this story in guidance as well. This month we will also start to talk about the lines and spaces of the treble clef and the notes that we find on them.

2nd Grade ~ Students will continue to prepare for Veterans Day by practicing their 2nd grade song, “In Service of Our Country”, as well as the school-wide songs “Thank You, Soldiers” and “The Star Spangled Banner”. In addition to preparing these songs, we have been talking about drumming and using several instruments to create a sound story with the book One by Kathryn Otoshi. The students have been talking about the wonderful message of this story in guidance as well.

1st Grade ~ Students will be adding the finishing touches to their musical “The First Thanksgiving”. Please make sure to review the words at home with your child to ensure that they are well prepared for the 19th. Also, if your child was chosen for a speaking role, please help them to memorize their lines. When the musical is finished, students will start to learn about the difference between loud and soft in music. They will also learn about call and response form.

Physical Education

Mr. Joe Terango & Mr. Dan Craig

Greetings from the PE department!! We are having a lot of fun here at Algonkian Elementary and everyone is working so hard and diligently. We as physical education teachers are so proud at the effort we see day to day in our classes. The younger students are grasping the skills they are being taught and the older students are setting good examples and striving to better their scores in the Fitness gram tests. Great job all of you!

Grades 1, 2, 3:
- Completed kicking unit. Striking objects with feet, dribbling, trapping, and ball control.
- Completed throwing, and catching unit. Beanbag manipulation, and Beanbag Carnival.
- Completed hula hoop skills and manipulation.

Grades 4, 5:
- Completed kicking unit. Striking objects with feet, dribbling, trapping, manipulation, and ball control.
- Completed Fitness Gram Testing.

CURRENTLY AND IN THE NEAR FUTURE:

Grades 1-3:
- Parachute Skills.
- Working on Cup Stacking Manipulation and Dexterity.
- Introduction to scooters. (Increasing coordination, aerobic and anaerobic strength).
- Introduce and complete Long Jump Rope Unite.

Grades 4-5:
- Currently progressing through scooter introduction. (Increasing coordination, aerobic and anaerobic strength).
- Ball skills (manipulation of ball) rolling, dribbling, passing, catching.
- Preparation for the Algonkian Basketball league.

Enjoy the month!

FLES

Señora Christine Ellis

¡Hola, padres! The first quarter is ending soon, and the second quarter is about to begin. All 4th and 5th grade FLES classes are busy finishing up their first quarter oral projects. The last weeks of the quarter will be spent learning about grammar, a reading comprehension lesson (for 5th grade) and a review class with games, for the final class.

If your younger children in grades 1-3 have signed up for the Hola Español Club, thanks so much for bringing your child bright and early at 7:00 a.m. We have learned about greetings, feelings, and are learning about the parts of the calendar. We hope to complete a small project with our feelings vocabulary to create calabazas (pumpkins) and gatos negros (black cats), celebrating Halloween.
Technology
Mrs. Pauline Burkett & Mrs. Trish Grace

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November 2013 Newsletter

Algonkian recycles ink! Yes, we will still take your old printer ink cartridges to recycle! If they are small just put them in a bag and place them in Mrs. Burkett’s or Mrs. Grace’s mailbox. If they are of the larger variety – please bring them to the Computer Lab and place them near Mrs. Burkett’s desk.

Algonkian students have access to some new technology sites this year as well as some of our old favorites. REFLEX is accessible from Grade Level Weblinks for grades 1-5. Reading Eggs is encouraged for our K and Grade 1 students to access at home. I-ready is the new tool students have access to that provides diagnostic data for teachers and leveled instruction for each individual student, as well as offering teachers the opportunity to assign extra lessons for enrichment in a specific subject or learning strand. All are accessible here:

http://www.lcps.org/Page/74962

Welcome to Algonkian’s Grade Level Web Links!

This is a collection of web sites for students in elementary school. Each of the links below will take you to a grade level page of web links. I hope they will give you new ideas and exciting ways of using the internet in your classroom and at home.

Disclaimer
Student Grade Level Resources
Click on a number to see grade level web links

If you come across a broken link on these pages, please let me know so that I may remove the link or find the correct pathway. Thank you and safe surfing!

Parent Liaison
Ms. Susan R. Smith
Email: susan.r.smith@lcps.org

I have several new resources to tell you about and some reminders on information from last month. But, first I would like to remind everyone to please check the Lost & Found in the hall across from the school cafeteria. We already have a large assortment of hoodies, light weight jackets, and sweaters. All items left at Winter Break will be donated.

REMINDERS:
LINK offers food distribution for families in need on the second Tuesday of each month from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Distribution is at Christ the Redeemer on Rt. 7 in Sterling. The Holiday Coalition’s application deadline is November 15th -- the application must be completed online at: www.givingothers.org/index.html. The Loudoun Workforce Center’s calendar is always changing -- please visit: http://www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?NID=1593 for their latest fall schedule of classes and seminars and Meet the Employer dates.

NEW INFORMATION:
Crossroads Jobs, Inc. – Do you need a job? Crossroads Jobs, Inc. is a free employment service. They have orientation every other Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Loudoun Interfaith Relief, 750 Miller Drive, Suite A-1 in Leesburg. Dates for November are the 4th and 18th and December 2. For more information, please visit: www.crossroadsjobs.org or call 703-771-4112.

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Algonkian School Cafeteria News

Parents/Guardians of Algonkian students!
Starting in November we will be offering snacks to purchase in the morning for students to eat during "snack time" in class!
If you would like your child to purchase a snack, please let them know when they arrive to school in the morning to go straight to the cafeteria before heading to class.
They will still be allowed to purchase a cookie at lunch but the snacks listed below will not be available during lunch times (ONLY can be purchased in the mornings during breakfast).

SNACKS: We will be offering fruit (apple slices, whole apple or banana) at $0.75 each and Quaker Snack kids mix (tiny twist pretzels, bite-size nacho cheese doritos, white cheddar cheese flavored popcorn, and cheetos brand flavored snack) at $0.60 per snack mix.

** Please note the snack mix does contain wheat and milk ingredients. **

Parent Liaison [continued from page 9]

Loudoun Interfaith Relief is holding their Thanksgiving Day food distribution at their location in Leesburg. Dates are Thursday, November 21st 1 to 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 22nd 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A picture ID and current proof of residency in Loudoun County are required. For more information visit: www.interfaithrelief.org or call 703-777-5911. I have copies of their flyer in the foyer of the school.

Volunteer Opportunities are available at the Holiday Coalition, Interfaith Relief, and LINK. Please visit their websites listed above.

If you need assistance in locating a resource, please give me a call or email. I am here to help!

SEARCH (grades K-3)

Ms. Patty Peterson

Verbal Talent in Children ~ Verbal talent may be described in general terms as an adeptness with language. More specifically, it involves a child’s precocity, intensity, and complexity with regard to reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Verbally talented children:

- **Read well.** They read avidly and at more advanced levels than their age peers.
- **Have advanced vocabularies.** Verbally talented children have a prowess with words that is often clearly evident in their writing and oral language.
- **Write well.** This is often a reflection of their reading experiences. Verbally talented children may write for pleasure, branching into areas of writing not typical of their age peers such as poetry, drama, reviews, and journals.

The behaviors exhibited by verbally talented children reflect passion, depth, and breadth. They choose to read and write for pleasure, and the outcomes are noticeably more sophisticated than those of others.

Listed below are a few ways parents can help children develop their verbal abilities at home:

- **Read aloud to them even after they are capable of independent reading.** Listening to stories and poems that are read aloud helps children develop a sense of the structure and rhythm of language, builds their vocabulary, and creates a storehouse of literary experiences from which they can draw.
- **Create a family environment and time for reading.** Children who grow up in homes where the adults are readers are likely to develop that habit. Adults should serve as models for the enjoyment of books.
- **Introduce them to the magic of the public library as soon as they are old enough.**
- **Have a collection of books and audio books available, both at home and in the car, so that they always have access to them.**
- **Encourage them to broaden their reading selections.** Children who are in a rut reading a particular series of books may be persuaded to read more challenging books in a related genre. Additionally, children who read and reread their favorite books, rather than moving on to other literature, may be nudged to expand their literary horizons.

Parents of children who are verbally talented may want to look into supplementary reading and writing opportunities in their community. Often, libraries, bookstores, colleges, and universities offer programs and services that may be of interest to verbally talented children. Such prospects might include summer or Saturday classes at a local college for children interested in creative writing or journalism, science fiction clubs or classes, explorations of fantasy literature through books, movies, or theater, or study of a foreign language. Families of verbally talented children may also want to consider establishing their own reading and writing groups for those with similar abilities and interests.

School Food Service

Free and Reduced Price Meal applications are available ALL YEAR

Anytime there is a change in employment status or wages, a new application may be filled out and sent to Food Services for approval. Please note that a social security number is not required for approval. This process is a year-long process not just at the beginning of the year.

Please feel free to call the Food Services Office with any questions at 571-252-1010 or visit website: [http://www.lcps.org/Page/73936](http://www.lcps.org/Page/73936).

Parents Make the Difference

November 2013

*Parents Make the Difference* newsletters are posted on the LCPS website:

[http://www.lcps.org/page/1597](http://www.lcps.org/page/1597)

Parent Resource Center

November 2013 Events & Fall Schedule

[http://www.lcps.org/Page/76179](http://www.lcps.org/Page/76179)

November 2013 Breakfast & Lunch School Menu

[http://www.lcps.org/Page/68454](http://www.lcps.org/Page/68454)

Loudoun County Guide to Services…

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**
- Family Services (daycare referrals) 703-777-0353
- Childcare/Preschool 703-777-0353
- Elementary Age Programs 703-737-8042
- Youth After School (Middle School) 703-737-8042
- Youth Shelter 703-771-5300

**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES**
- Financial Assistance 703-777-0353
- Emergency Housing 703-777-0353
- Transitional Housing Shelter 703-777-0353
- Loudoun Cares 703-669-4636
- Loudoun Interfaith Relief 703-777-5911
- LINK 703-437-1776
- Career Support Services 703-777-0353

**HEALTHCARE SERVICES 703-777-0234**
- Loudoun Community Free Clinic 703-779-5416
- Dental Care 703-771-5831
- Nutrition Services 703-777-0239
- Mental Health Centers
  - Eastern Loudoun 571-258-3026
  - Leesburg 703-771-5100
- FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security) 703-777-0353 or toll free 866-873-2647